Service Conditions of Development officers of Life Insurance Corporation

2329. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Development Officers in Life Insurance Corporation are subjected to heavy punishments in terms of termination, reduction in basic salary and conveyance allowance since the imposition of work norms in 1977-78 whereas the business is on the increase every year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government propose to take to mitigate the hardships being faced by such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The service conditions of the Development Officers of Life Insurance Corporation of India are regulated by Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960. Schedule III of the said (Staff) Regulations, as amended in 1978, prescribes certain expense limits depending upon the area of operation of a Development Officer within which his performance is to be assessed. Performance at a higher expense limit attracts various types of disincentives ranging from 50 per cent cut in conveyance allowance to one, two, three de-crements. Extreme cases also attract termination of service though there are provisions for absorption of such a Development Officer in Class III Cadre if he applies for the same, is below the age of 55 years and is otherwise eligible and suitable for such post.

Before any penal action is taken against a Development Officer, he is given adequate opportunity to defend himself. There are also provisions for appeal and second appeal. Provisions also exist for suitably rewarding the efficient Development Officers for better performance. Adequate safeguards thus already exist to protect the interests of the Development Officers and for redressal of their legitimate grievances.

Provident Fund Contribution from Employers of establishments in Delhi

2330. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of provident fund contribution which was to be paid by the employers in the mills|factories|business establishments in Delhi during the years 1983, 1984 and so far during 1985;

(b) the reasons for which the arrears have not been recovered from the employers; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) The EPF Organisation is maintaining its accounts financial year-wise. The amount of provident fund contribution due from the employers of mills|factories|business establishments for the last two financial years was as given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Exempted establishments	Unexempted establishments
1983-84 . . .	4095.00	2145.65
1984-85 . . .	5863.00	2487.55

(b) and (c) According to available information, a sum of Rs. 121.74 lakhs was outstanding from the defaulting unexempted establishments as on 31st March, 1985. There was no outstanding dues against the exempted establishments. The EPF Organisation have taken the following steps to realise outstanding dues from the unexempted establishments:

(1) 478 revenue recovery certificates have been issued to the

Collectors for realisation of the outstanding dues as arrears of land revenue;

(2) 158 prosecution cases under section 14 of the EPF Act have been filed against defaulting establishments; and

(3) 6 complaints have been filed under section 406|409 IPC against the employers who had deducted the contribution from the wages of the employees but not deposited the same.

Indo-Czechoslovakia Protocol

2331. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any protocol between India and Czechoslovakia has recently been signed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 1986 Trade Protocol with Czechoslovakia provides for a trade turnover on a balanced basis of Rs. 467 crores. The Protocol covers supplies of rolled steel products, diesel generating sets, seamless pipes, tubes and castings, machine tools, ball bearings, fertilizers etc. by Czechoslovakia. Indian exports would mainly consists of agricultural products, textiles, minerals and ores, engineering goods, leather and leather manufactures, chemicals and allied products and other miscellaneous goods.

Time-limit for payment of Provident Fund

2332. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-limit has been fixed within which the provident fund dues of employees who retire or who die while in service are to be paid by mills|factories|business establishments; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether employers can withhold the payment of provident fund dues; if so, the grounds on which the provident fund dues can be withheld and the period for which these can be withheld?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) According to the existing administrative instructions, the provident fund dues of employees who retire or die while in service of a factory|establishment covered under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are normally required to be paid within 20 days of the receipt of the application, in the prescribed forms, from the nominee|legal heir|family members of the deceased employee or from the retired employee.

(b) The provident fund dues which have become payable to member himself or the nominee|heir of deceased members cannot be withheld by employers, for any reason whatsoever.

Payment of D.A. to Central Government Employees

2333. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that one more instalment of Dearness Allowence has become due with effect from 1st November, 1985 for payment to the Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be paid; and

(c) whether Government have issued orders for the payment of Dearness Allowances instalment which became due on the 1st August, 1985; if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Consequent upon the average consumer price index reaching 601.58 at the end of October, 1985, one instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for consideration w.e.f. 1-11-1985.